

FEBRUARY 12, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Tuesday next.

A Bill,

Authorizing the sale of the lands of the United States, and for other purposes.



1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That whenever
3 ver the president of the United States has been or may be au-
4 thorized to cause the public lands, in any land district, to be offered
5 for sale, it shall be lawful, whenever he shall think it convenient,
6 to offer for sale at first, only a part of the lands contained in
7 such district, and at any subsequent time or times, to offer for sale
8 in the same manner, any other part, or the remainder of the lands
9 contained in the same.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That time be allowed until the
2 first day of October next, to any person or persons claiming a pre-

3 emption, east of Pearl river, in the Mississippi territory, to produce
 4 evidence to the register of the land office and receiver of public
 5 monies, which may entitle such person or persons to a donation,
 6 in virtue of settlement and occupancy, on or before the 30th day of
 7 March, 1798, and if such proof should be adduced, to the said
 8 register and receiver, then the claimant or claimants shall be entitled
 9 to a donation, in lieu of a pre-emption certificate, and the money, if
 10 any has been paid on such claims, shall be by the receiver of
 11 public monies, repaid to the person or persons who have paid the
 12 same.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That certain settlers near the
 2 river Mobile, in the Mississippi territory, (east of Pearl river, who
 3 were heretofore supposed to reside below the line of demarkation,
 4 between the United States and Spain, run in pursuance of the trea-
 5 ty of the twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand seven hun-
 6 dred and ninety-five, but whose residence has lately been found to
 7 be within the said territory,) shall be allowed until the first day of
 8 October next, to file a notice in writing with the register of the
 9 land office, stating the nature and extent of their claims, together
 10 with a plat of the tract or tracts claimed, and the said register of
 11 the land office, and the receiver of public monies, are hereby re-
 12 quired to hear and determine such claims according to the several
 13 acts of congress "regulating the grants of land and providing for
 14 the disposal of the lands of the United States south of the state of
 15 Tennessee," and to grant certificates in the form heretofore pre-
 16 scribed by the board of commissioners in said district.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That any person, or the legal
2 representatives of any person, claiming land in the Mississippi terri-
3 tory, to which the Indian title has been extinguished, by virtue of a
4 British or Spanish warrant or order of survey, whose claims have
5 been regularly filed with the register of the land office, within whose
6 district the land is situated, and who are citizens of the United
7 States, resident in the said territory, shall not forfeit or be turned
8 out of possession of lands held by the tenures aforesaid, until a
9 judicial decision shall be had against the validity of such warrant or
10 order of survey, in the highest court of law or equity in said terri-
11 tory; any act or acts to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That that part of the lands to
2 which the Indian title was extinguished by the treaty with the Choc-
3aw nation, made on Mount Dexter, in the year one thousand eight
4 hundred and five, lying on the east of Pearl river, shall be attached
5 to the land district east of Pearl river, and that the residue of the
6 lands to which the Indian title was extinguished by said treaty,
7 shall be attached to the land district west of Pearl river; and the
8 said lands shall, with the exception of section number sixteen,
9 which shall be reserved in each township for the use of schools
10 within the same, and also with the exception of fifteen hundred
11 acres of land, which is hereby confirmed to John M'Gaw, in com-
12 pliance with the fourth article of the said treaty, be offered for sale
13 under the same regulations, at the same prices, and on the same
14 terms as other lands lying within the said districts.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That every person and the
2 legal representatives of every person, who being either the head of
3 a family, or above the age of twenty-one years, who actually inha-
4 bits and cultivates a tract of land, in the Mississippi territory, be-
5 longing to the United States, shall be allowed until the 1st day of
6 October next, to obtain permission to remain on such tract or tracts
7 of land, according to the provisions of the act, entitled "An act
8 to prevent settlements being made on lands ceded to the United
9 States until authorized by law," and the person or persons obtain-
10 ing such permission shall be entitled to all the benefits, rights and
11 privileges granted by law to those who obtained the *same* prior to
12 the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

1 Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the right of the United
2 States to two town lots lying and being in the city of Natchez be, and
3 the *same* is hereby forever vested in the corporation of the said
4 city, so as not to affect the legal or equitable claims of any individu-
5 als, or of any body politic or corporate, if any such there be.